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## Newsletter Number 3 18 February 2011



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

### Thanks

... those wonderful parents who assisted with term headlice inspections today.

.. Sharon Smith, Sharon Martin, Jo Brunker, Mary Sissons and Michelle Blagrove for assisting with timing of swimming heats this week.

.. those parents who attended this week's syndicate and assessment and reporting discussions (those unable to make these meetings are reminded that teachers are highly available by appointment).

### People of the week

.. those parents who expressed interest in attending our senior camp 7-11 March. We are privileged to have such a high level of support and it is regrettable that we cannot take all of our parents with us. The outcome of the parent ballot process was sent home to parents today.

.. the Warriors team members (and management) for fitting Matarau School into their busy schedule.

.. our parent helpers team ready to start up next week.

Please keep us informed of the achievements of present and past pupils so that we can celebrate these together.

### Special thanks to Oxford Trust

The school would like to acknowledge the generous donation from Oxford Trust of \$11,000 for purchase of sports equipment. This is a most welcome donation which we undertake to put to good use.

### Reporting on Achievement at Matarau School

Some of the material distributed at this week's discussion on Reporting on Achievement has been added to the school website. This material explains how the various facets of reporting at our school fit together, how we intend to meet the requirements of the new national Standards, and contains suggestions on how achievement information can be used to good effect. Parents are welcome to contact the school with any questions.



## Trail Ride 2011 & Raffle

A date has been set for the annual Matarau School Trail Ride Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. We will be issuing raffle tickets in the next week or so to help cover costs. If you do not wish to receive a book to sell, please contact the office otherwise each family will be issued a book to sell. If you are able to help with this, please contact Alistair Rickey on 4355509 or Stephen Martin 4335061.

### **Term Events**

Please pencil the following dates into your calendar. We will advise of further dates as these come to hand.

21 Feb	Test week
23 Feb	Tennis Doubles Tournament
25 Feb	Indicator Reports (for students with us in 2010) and Learner Journey Sheets sent home
28 Feb/1 Mar	Teacher / Student / Parent Conferences
3 March	Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School (pp 5.3)
7 - 11 March	Senior camp
8 March	March meeting of the Board of Trustees
15 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
17 March	School Swimming Sports
21 March	Visiting author
24 March	Triathlon
30 March	Year 4 to 6 Summer Sports Tournament
31 March	Year 7 vaccinations / Year 8 girls HPV vaccination
6 April	Ripper Rugby Tournament
15 April	Final day of term

### **Senior Camp Consents (camp 7-11 March)**

Please ensure that any outstanding consent forms are returned next week. Any questions in the run up to camp to Mr Delemare please.

### **Scholastic Orders**

All orders and payments for Issue 1 back at office by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Pool Keys**

If you have a key from the 2010 season, and have received an invoice for the 2011 season, please pay or return your key this coming Monday.

### **Important notice to parents of year 7 and 8 students**

This week our Public Health Nurse met with year 7 and 8 students and their parents to provide information / answer questions relating to forthcoming vaccinations. If you were unable to make these meetings, and have questions, our public health nurse, Philippa Butturini, can be contacted on 0212445407 or 4338255. If you did not get a vaccination form these are available from the school office.

### **Annual Fundraising events**

The Board is extremely grateful to those parents who have committed to supporting at least one fundraising event this year. In order to share the fundraising workload as evenly as possible across the parent body we ask parents to commit to assisting with only ONE event in any given year.

If you were involved in a particular event last year, and would like to be involved in a different event this year, it isn't too late to change - just phone Sharon Smith on 4338371.

**(If parents do not contact us we will assume they are quite happy to be involved in the same event as last year).**

### **Parent Helpers Roster**

Thank you again to those parents who have offered to support the school on a regular basis during 2011. Parental involvement has a huge positive impact on student learning and school efficiency and we are enormously grateful that you have fitted us in to your busy schedules. A parent Helpers Roster was sent home this week and we hope to have you all up and running from next week. Further changes to the roster can be negotiated with individual teachers.

### **Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews - 28.2 and 1.3)**

This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be involved in setting the direction of their learning and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

If you did not receive an interview booking form with last week's newsletter please drop by or give our office a call. Parents will receive confirmation of appointment time some time early next week.

### Early notice ..

.. a reminder that school will finish at 2:30 PM on 28 Feb and 1 March to free teachers to prepare for conferences. Buses will run approximately 30-40 minutes earlier on these days and parents who pick children up from school are asked to do so at this earlier time. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by these earlier closure times.

### Headlice Inspection

This week's inspection has indicated some level of infestation. If you received notice of infestation please take action this weekend to ensure your child has been treated before they return to school on Monday. Children will be checked again next week. With your support we should have a largely headlice free school for most of this term. ALL parents are asked to check their children's hair weekly and to take prompt action in the event of infestation.

### Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School - 3.3

Qualifying children received consents for this event this week. Attendance for qualifying children (based on timed heats here at school) is optional but encouraged. Please return consents this coming Monday so that we can organise teams, transport etc.

If your child misses the qualifying heats and you would like them to attend this event, no promises, but please give Mr Delemare a call.

### Tennis Doubles Tournament

If you have not yet returned your consent form please do so on Monday so we can confirm our entries. Thank you to those parents who are transporting and assisting children and especially to those who have found a seat in their car for another child. A reminder that parents are required to transport and supervise their own children on the day, or arrange for another parent to do this. Best of luck to our team!

### International Schools English and Maths Competitions

We will shortly be calling for expressions of interest in the above programmes. Perhaps give some thought in the meantime to whether or not your child might benefit from inclusion in either or both of these competitions. If you are not sure of your child's suitability for these programmes please feel free to further discuss with Kevin or their classroom teacher.

### Homework

Homework is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights homework a week (around 20 minutes each night) with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason or if they wish their child excused from homework altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing homework. **If you do NOT want your child to receive homework please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board please set a regular time and place and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue by getting routines well established.

*(Although the research is a little inconclusive we believe that regular homework routines lead to better performance and a better preparation for secondary school for most children).*

### School Phone

Please use the options now when phoning in as this greatly helps the workload of office staff. We assure the answer phones are checked in a timely fashion.

### School Contributions / Trips and Events Fee

Thanks to those who have made early payment. If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.

### **Stationery**

If your child does not have their stationery please organise this as soon as possible. Stationery can be purchased throughout the year from the school office.

### **Sunhats**

A reminder that school broad brimmed sunhats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure these are packed at the beginning of each school day. Clothing which covers the shoulders is also advisable with sun block at your discretion.

### **Special Needs Programme**

If your child has been selected for placement in one of Mrs Comrie's special needs programmes please return consent forms as soon as possible. This is a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme, in an area of need, and parental support with assigned homework tasks is anticipated. The support of parents in these programmes is anticipated. Mrs Comrie is available at any stage to discuss your child's progress and to explain how you might assist at home.

### **Punctuality**

We request that children are at school at least 10-15 minutes before the morning bell to give them time to settle, connect with their teacher, and prepare for the day ahead.

### **PMP**

We would really appreciate further offers to assist with this important programme. If able to help please give Mrs Robertson a call. PMP takes place every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon - even if you can help on one of these afternoons it enables us to give existing parent helpers the occasional break.

### **Pool Keys**

The pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$25 per family for the 2011 swimming season. If you have a key from the 2010 season please forward payment or return your key so we can make these available to other users. A reminder that attending parents are responsible for the safety of children using the pool outside school hours.

### **Lost**

Near Pool area - Purple "Balance Power Band" used for balance. If you or your child has found it over the weekend please return to school office asap.

### **Measles Outbreak**

The Ministry of Health has advised of an outbreak of measles in the Auckland area. This is expected to spread quite quickly. Parents may wish to have unimmunised children immunised. If you suspect measles please keep your child at home and see your general practitioner promptly with any concerns.

### **Senior School Raffle**

As part of the senior school camp fundraising, all senior school children will be issued with raffle books today. These need to be returned by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you to all those people who donated prizes. If you require extra books to sell, please see Mrs Williams in Room 10.

### **Request from our Librarian**

Please check bookshelves, behind dressers, under beds etc. and return any books to school as soon as possible.

### **Swimming**

Children are required to have their swimming gear at school each day. Thank you.

### **Community Notices**

Found - 2x sheep in Going Rd/Hillview Rd area. Call Mary 4335156

For Sale - kuneKune piglets for sale \$60 each. Ready to go end of February. Ph/txt Cassandra for viewing 4335968 or 0212078887.

For Rent - Country cottage in Ruatangata, 2 bedrooms + sleepout, new kitchen, bathroom, carpet, lino. \$220pw incl power and lawns. Can be part-furnished. Ph Jenny 4355336.

Firewood - Bone dry, 120yr old pine \$60. Ph 4338185.

Soccer Rally Days - Junior Rally Days Fri 11 Feb 4-6pm and Sun 13 Feb 9-11am, Reed St, Tikipunga. Come along and register for the 2011 season. Call or txt or email don on 4353676, 0272835130 or [don.spice@extra.co.nz](mailto:don.spice@extra.co.nz)

Kamo Tennis Club - Juniors started 8<sup>th</sup> Feb Tuesdays 3.30 to 5.30pm, Club Nights Tuesday & Thursday 5.30pm, Ladies Day Thursday 9-11.30am. All Welcome.

Fun Day Out - Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb from 10am. Live entertainment, crafts and foods stalls, truck rides, sports activities, bands. Toll Stadium/Cobham Oval.

Cancer Society Northland Relay for Life - Last call for team entries, Held March 19-20<sup>th</sup> Lots of fund for all ages and fitness levels. Visit [www.relayforlife.org.nz](http://www.relayforlife.org.nz) or call 09 4375593. Entries close March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Federated Farmers Farm Day - Interactive family event. Experience sights and smells of a working farm. Safe & tactile experience for people of all ages, Sunday 13 March (10am-3pm) For more info contact Matthew Long on 094343370 or email [matty.j.long@extra.co.nz](mailto:matty.j.long@extra.co.nz).

Bike Wise Month Feb 2011 - A variety of cycling activities and challenges around Whangarei including Go Bike Day, Wed 16 Feb, Mayoral Challenge, Sun 20 Feb. For more info vist [www.sportnorthland.co.nz](http://www.sportnorthland.co.nz) or ph 0943779633.

### **Guitar Lessons**

There are a number of vacancies in this popular after school programme (Wednesday & Thursday in the Old School Room - by the upper car park). Cost \$20 per lesson. Vangie has a spare guitar for kids trying out. If interested please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email [killalea@ihug.co.nz](mailto:killalea@ihug.co.nz)

### **Friday Lunches**

Filled Rolls now available as well as the hot pies and sausage rolls. Orders need to be at the office by Tuesday to receive a lunch on Friday. This is a fundraising venture for the school and any profit is directed towards the children of the school. Any queries please call the office.

### **School charter**

A summary of our 2011 school charter has been placed on our website (board tab) for those interested. This identifies some of the areas of special focus for this year (also a copy is on the staffroom wall). Kevin is more than happy to discuss this with any interested parties.

### **Test Week**

Next week children will sit a variety of diagnostic tests which will help us identify needs and forward plan. Please impress upon them the importance of these tests and perhaps of the need for some early nights.

### **Finally**

*"If you want to be happy, be"* Leo Tolstoy 1828-1910

Regards  
Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL

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children, please support them

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### **A Message from our SKIDS Team**

*Our SKIDS 'Safe Kids in Daily Supervision' would be very pleased to answer any questions you may have in regards to the SKIDS after school program, which is up and running each day. We can now offer fun filled after school supervision until 6pm and remember you could qualify for a subsidy too!*

*Also, please let it be known to them if you would appreciate an Easter Holiday Program being available for your child. If there are enough numbers this could be something to look forward to. To contact Erena or Hannah text or call 0278461724 or pop into the school hall at the end of the school day. Alternatively you will find information and enrolment forms online at [www.skids.co.nz](http://www.skids.co.nz)*